

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 34, 35, 66-69 and 73 USC 102(b).

Claims 34, 35, 68 and 76 have been cancelled. Claim 66 has been amended to include allowable subject matter, particularly the limitations of allowed dependent claim 76.

Furthermore, the limitations of claim 66 and intervening dependent claim 69 have been incorporated into allowed dependent claims 70-72. Claims 66 and 70-72 (as well as their dependents) are therefore allowable as the Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action.

Although these claims have been amended or cancelled, it should be emphasized that this was done to expedite the prosecution of the case. It is nevertheless submitted that the rejections in view of Mueller (6,016,038) are unsupported. The Applicant therefore reserves the right to pursue these rejected claims in a continuing application.

Applicant believes that all pending claims 1, 4-11, 13-20, 22-31, 36-51, 56-67, and 69-74 are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Quin C. Hoellwarth  
Reg. No. 45,738

P.O. Box 70250  
Oakland, CA 94612-0250  
(650) 961-8300